

From: DrewAIX5
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

I understand that the US government is having a hard time with the Microsoft antitrust case. Coming from the technology industry it is easy to see the monopolistic behavior from Microsoft. But looking at the technology industry from the outside in, is no easy feat.

I just hope that when this is all over, Microsoft will be sharing it's programs with other operating systems like linux, and I hope that they don't gain a monopolistic hold on the internet which I'm afraid has already begun.

When I buy a new PC from Dell, Gateway, IBM any of the most popular vendors, I HAVE TO BUY MICROSOFT WINDOWS XP even if I never plan to use it. I would want to buy one with Linux but I can't. In fact I can't even buy one without an OS and install Linux myself. No matter what I do I still have to pay a licensing fee to Microsoft even if I never use it!

Where is the consumer choice? WHY exactly don't I have a choice?

Not only do I have to buy the Microsoft product but Microsoft DEMANDS that I register it and when I do THEY AUTOMATICALLY PLACE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION into their Passport database! I don't want that either! I, in no way shape or form wish to have my personal data put into a database that was already compromised once in the few short months of it's existence.

Microsoft will be building this database of people, keeping all our information in it, but if the Government was to try to do the exact same thing that (Private Industry) Microsoft is doing, there would be mad protests in the street, protesting big brother.

They can, will, and do get away with it because everyone knows that the court system in this country moves slowly, and that technology is constantly changing at an extremely fast pace. By the time the government actually has a case together and is ready to take it to court, all the rules have changed, and whatever Microsoft was doing they don't anymore (because it doesn't suit them), and they are on to taking over the next new technology that the government isn't even aware of yet. It's a circle.

I hope that this chance to break the circle is not wasted. I don't want to see the deterioration of free enterprise in the computer business any longer.

Thank you,

Andrew Townsend